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October 16, 2009

To: House Health Policy Committee Members

From: Ed Rivet

Re: H.B. 4406 – Abortion Reporting Technical Change

Rep. John Espinoza has introduced H.B. 4406 to effect a technical change to the Michigan law requiring a report to be filed with the Department of Community Health for each abortion performed in Michigan. The original law was passed in 1978 and was amended in 2002 to include demographic data on the race of the woman. That 2002 amendment, however, did not properly specify that information on Hispanic origin be included in the demographic information.

All other health-related reporting forms used by DCH that collect such demographic information include Hispanic origin. Furthermore, the collection of data by the U.S. Census Bureau, including in the upcoming 2010 national census, includes Hispanic origin as part of the demographic data.

H.B. 4406 will bring the abortion reporting law into conformity with all these other DHC reports and the census data. Right to Life of Michigan supports this technical change in the law and encourages your support for H.B. 4406.

If you have any questions, contact me at 487-3376.